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1 May 1964

MEMORANDUMSUBJECT: Task Force to Analyze Book, The Invisible Government

1. Mr. McCone directs that a task force be formed immediately for the purpose of analyzing the forthcoming Wise and Ross book: The Invisible Government.

2. The task force will consist of the following or their designees: DDP, DDI, DDS&T, GC, D/NIPE, DDS/Security, Executive Assistant to the Director, Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs, and such others as may be added by the Director.

3. The task force will report on (a) passages that are true but too sensitive to be printed and (b) passages that are inaccurate and damaging either because of the subject matter or the inaccuracies. Recommendations for DCI action will be formulated.

4. The task force shall complete its report by noon on Monday, 4 May.

5. A meeting will be held on Friday, 1 May, at 1015, in the DCI's Conference Room, to decide on a division of labor.

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Paul M. Chrétien
Assistant to the Director
for Public Affairs

Orig: DDCI

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REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TASK FORCE

1. This tab contains a recommendation in paragraph 5.

2. Background:

a. The author defines the invisible government as "a loose, amorphous grouping of individuals and agencies drawn from many parts of the visible government." CIA is at its heart and John A. McCone is its head.

b. The authors state that "the premise of this book is that even in a time of Cold War, the United States Government must rest, in the words of the Declaration of Independence, on 'the consent of the governed.' And there can be no meaningful consent where those who are governed do not know to what they are consenting."

3. Damage Assessment:

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50X1

4. Security and Legal Aspects:

The Office of Security cannot identify any specific security violation breached. The material does not seem to provide a basis for an action at law, although a detailed analysis by the Department of Justice would be necessary to reach a final conclusion. The chances of a prosecution, particularly of a successful one, are not very high.

5. Recommendations:

a. That the possibility of an approach at the highest level to the book publisher be considered, either to stop the book from being printed or to have deletions of at least some of the material mentioned above as being most harmful, the appeal to be made in the name of the national interest. Any approach must be preceded by a request for a manuscript, however, since the present one was gotten through irregular channels.

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b. If such an approach is not considered favorably or fails, such assets as CIA may have to secure unfavorable book reviews should be used at the proper time to lessen the book's impact and to cast doubt on the validity of its claims.